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Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari :—" May I know the reason for the variation in the grants: it is Rs. 570 in some cases, 665 in some cases and Rs. 700 in other cases? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" As the hon. Member is aware, a committee sat on this question and fixed these rates with reference to the average cost of maintenance in each district."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I ask, pending the revision of the whole question, whether the sum of Rs. 1·74 lakhs which they are now deducting from the total sum will also be made available to the local boards for the purpose of maintenance of roads? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I do not think it is possible."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I ask when the Government would consider the question of redistribution of these grants, and whether they will be pleased to make the redistribution on a more equitable basis so that the boards which spend more on their roads may get larger grants? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" The resdistribution of the grants for the maintenance of second-class roads on a mileage basis may mean the reduction of the existing grants to some boards."

Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar :—" May I ask why in some districts the trunk roads are kept in such a bad condition in spite of the Government grants? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" It is the responsibility of the District Board."

Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam :—" May I ask whether, in view of the fact that the Tanjore District is in a unique position of having no trunk roads at all, the Government will favourably consider the old request of Tanjore, namely, to classify the main road No. 1 connecting South Arcot and Trichinopoly as a trunk road? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I will consider the suggestion; but of course the principle is that only roads which are of Provincial importance are classed as trunk roads."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—" May I ask whether the Government is aware that the Tanjore District is in the unique position of being the richest board in the Province? "

Grants to trunk roads and bridges.

* 349 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the mileage of trunk roads in every district of this Province at present;

(*b*) the number of bridges in the trunk roads in every district of the Province and the length of each bridge; and

(*c*) what the amount of grant made this year by the Government for (*a*) roads and (*b*) bridges in each district of this Province is?

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A.—(*a*) & (*c*) A statement is placed on the table.[a] It is presumed that the information required in clause (*c*) relates only to trunk roads.

(*b*) The information is not available.

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to make a survey of the actual condition in regard to roads all over the Presidency and revise their distribution of grants? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" It is not possible to make a survey of the actual condition of the roads all over the Presidency. The grants were fixed with reference to the existing conditions some years ago and they are being continued."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" Will the hon. Minister be pleased to order a careful survey now—an up-to-date survey—of the conditions of the roads in the several districts so that he may be able to weigh carefully the competing claims of the various district boards and redistribute the grants to them without leaving any impression in the minds of people that vested interests or the claims of particular districts are taken into account? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I do not think it is necessary to have a general survey like that. All schemes sent up by the local bodies are carefully examined and, if funds are available, those schemes which in the opinion of the Government are urgent are sanctioned."

Disposal of applications by the Executive Engineer, Kistna Western Subdivision, for permission to use canal bunds as roads.

* 350 *Q.*—MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many local boards and panchayats have applied to the Executive Engineer, Kistna Western Subdivision, for permission to use canal bunds as roads;

(*b*) to which of them has permission been granted and to which not; and

(*c*) what the reasons given by the Executive Engineer are for refusal?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A statement showing the particulars required for a period of five years ending 1932 is laid on the table of the House.[b]

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI :—" May I ask whether there is any principle on which these canal bunds are handed over to local bodies for road-making purposes, or is it purely left to the discretion of the Executive Engineer or the Superintending Engineer there? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I do not think there is any general principle; each question is considered on its merits."

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 615 infra.

[b] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 616–617 infra.